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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

27488

7590

05/08/2009

MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)  
P.O. BOX 2903  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903

EXAMINER

BADIL, BEJRANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3694

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,580	09/23/2003	Aidan T. Hughes	60001.026USD1	2394
TITLE OF INVENTION: HARDWARE ID TO PREVENT SOFTWARE PIRACY				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	08/10/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**P.O. Box 1450**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**  
 or Fax **(571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

27488 7590 05/08/2009

**MERCHANT & GOULD (MICROSOFT)**  
**P.O. BOX 2903**  
**MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903**

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/668,580 09/23/2003

Aidan T. Hughes

60001.026USD1

2394

**TITLE OF INVENTION: HARDWARE ID TO PREVENT SOFTWARE PIRACY**

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nonprovisional

NO

\$1510

\$300

\$0

\$1810

08/10/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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BADII, BEHRANG

3694

705-050000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2

3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3694

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2009

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/668,580

**Applicant(s)**

HUGHES ET AL.

**Examiner**

BEHRANG BADII

**Art Unit**

3694

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/1/08.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 8 and 10-18.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.  
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**  
**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy P. Sullivan on 2/4/09.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 19-35 are cancelled.

Claims 10 - 18 now depend from claim 8 and NOT 9. Claim 9 is cancelled.

Claim 8 is amended as follows:

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium including computer executable instructions executed by a processor on a computer, the instructions comprising: generating a [[A]] single computer system identifier (ID) for identifying a computer system, the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions, the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component having a unique identifier, wherein the single computer-system ID is stored on the computer system after being generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the single computer system ID comprises the concatenation of the plurality of hardware device identifier portions during the installation of the software product on the computer system, each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of

the computer system wherein the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components and wherein the single computer system ID comprises a variable number of bits; wherein the single computer system ID differentiates the computer system from other computer systems based on a particular component having a unique identifier, wherein the particular component is one of the plurality of components; and wherein the plurality of hardware device identifier portions identifying a plurality of hardware devices comprises all members of a group comprising a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system; a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system; a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system; a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system; a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system; a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system; a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system; a processor type portion identifying a processor type of the computer system; a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system; and a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the CD-ROM device portion comprises a hashing of a CD-ROM device identification string.

11. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the disk adapter portion comprises a hashing of disk adapter peripheral component interface (PCI) vendor and device identifications.

12. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the disk device portion comprises a hashing of a disk device identification string.

13. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the display adapter portion comprises a hashing of video adapter PCI vendor and device identifications.

14. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the first drive serial portion comprises a hashing of an operating system assigned serial number of a first partition.

15. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the MAC address portion comprises a hardware address of a network interface connecting the computer system to a shared network.

16. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the processor serial number portion comprises an identification of the manufacturer's serial number for the processor of the computer system.

17. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the RAM size portion comprises the size of the RAM in the computer system in megabytes.

18. (Currently Amended) The single computer system ID of claim 8 wherein the SCSI adapter portion comprises an identification of the Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) adapter of the computer system.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is Karp, USP 4,866,769. Karp discloses the copy protection of personal computer (PC) software distributed on diskettes is assisted by providing a unique identification (ID) stored in read only memory (ROM) of a personal computer in which software on a diskette is to be used. This ID is accessible to the user of the computer. A vendor who wishes to protect his diskette-distributed software from illegal copying or use provides a source ID on the diskette. The personal computer ID is used with the source ID on the distributed diskette to produce an encoded check word, using any available encryption modality. The check word is generated and written onto the distributed diskette during installation and copied onto all backup versions made by the user's personal computer. Prior to each use of the program, the software on the diskette uses the personal computer and the source IDs and check word to verify that the software is being used on the same personal computer on which it was installed.

In regard to claim 8, Karp taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious a computer-readable storage medium including computer executable instructions executed by a processor on a computer, the instructions comprising: generating a [[A]] single computer system identifier (ID) for



identifying a computer system, the single computer system ID being comprised of a concatenation of a plurality of hardware device identifier portions, the computer system comprising a plurality of components, each component having a unique identifier, wherein the single computer-system ID is stored on the computer system after being generated during the installation of a software product on the computer system, wherein the single computer system ID comprises the concatenation of the plurality of hardware device identifier portions during the installation of the software product on the computer system, each hardware device identifier portion associated with a single component of the computer system wherein the single computer system ID represents the computer system plurality of components and wherein the single computer system ID comprises a variable number of bits; wherein the single computer system ID differentiates the computer system from other computer systems based on a particular component having a unique identifier, wherein the particular component is one of the plurality of components; and wherein the plurality of hardware device identifier portions identifying a plurality of hardware devices comprises all members of a group comprising a CD-ROM device portion identifying a CD-ROM device of the computer system; a disk adapter portion identifying a disk adapter of the computer system; a disk device portion identifying a disk device of the computer system; a display adapter portion identifying a display adapter of the computer system; a first drive serial portion identifying a disk drive of the computer system; a MAC address portion identifying a MAC address of the computer system; a processor serial number portion identifying a processor serial number of the computer system; a processor type portion identifying a processor type of

the computer system; a RAM size portion identifying a RAM size of the computer system; and a SCSI adapter portion identifying a SCSI adapter of the computer system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Behrang Badii whose telephone number is 571-272-6879. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

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**or faxed to (571)273-8300**

Hand delivered responses should be brought to

United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application  
or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 3600 Customer Service  
Office whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3600**.

/BB/

/James P Trammell/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3694